

I support media diversity

I am writing to you today to comment on Docket No. 02-277, The Biennial Review of the FCC's broadcast media ownership rules. In its goals to promote competition, diversity and localism in today's media market, I strongly believe that the FCC should retain all of the current media ownership rules now in question. These rules serve the public interest by limiting the market power of already huge companies in the broadcast industry.

I do not believe that the studies commissioned by the FCC accurately demonstrate the negative affects media deregulation and consolidation have had on media diversity. While there may be indeed be more sources of media than ever before, the spectrum of views presented have become more limited. More sources of media that represent a limited number of interests does NOT improve democracy.

The right to carry on informed debate and discussion of current events is part of the founding philosophy of our nation. I believe, with our forefathers, that democracy is best served by a diverse marketplace of ideas. If the FCC allows our media outlets to merge, our ability to have open, informed discussion with a wide variety of viewpoints will be truncated by those who have an untoward interest in limiting public access to knowledge. The public interest will best be served by preserving media ownership rules in question in this proceeding.

I think it is important for the FCC to consider the view points of those with social and civic interests in the matter before acceding to the wishes of those who stand to gain financial benefits from further deregulation. Therefore, in addition to the official hearing on this matter in Richmond, VA, I strongly urge the FCC to hold additional hearings elsewhere around the nation to solicit the widest possible participation from the public which will be the most directly affected by the outcomes of these decisions.

With the serious impact these rule changes will have on our democracy, it is incumbent on the Commission to take the time to review these issues more thoroughly and allow the American people to have a decisive say in the process.

Thank you,

Harriet Warnock-Graham